

October 16, 2008

Mayor Shirley Franklin
City of Atlanta
40 Mitchell Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2781

Re: Connect Atlanta Plan

Dear Mayor Franklin:

On behalf of the Transit Planning Board (TPB), representing elected officials, regional and state partners, and transit operators, I am writing to share with you the TPB's support for the Connect Atlanta Plan. The Connect Atlanta Plan positions the City to share a collective vision that was developed in conjunction with and is consistent with the projects and goals of Concept 3; our vision plan for transit in the metro Atlanta region.

The TPB has recognized the important role of quality transportation planning for our quality of life and economic prosperity. The unprecedented population growth of the last few years, the resulting traffic congestion, the reduction in federal and state transportation funding, and the surge in residential, retail, and commercial development, causes us to raise the priority of these issues to a new level. In this new environment, the TPB acknowledges that the City has developed a clear and articulate transportation plan that is technically sound and community driven. I believe that such local level planning is critical to the healthy development of the City of Atlanta and consequently the entire metro Atlanta region.

The Connect Atlanta Plan highlights specific corridors for high frequency transit that are contained within the Regional Transit Vision (Concept 3 Plan). These include:

- Beltline
- Peachtree Corridor including Downtown circulator route
- 75 South/Marietta Boulevard/Lindbergh and Ponce de Leon
- Campbellton Road
- D.L. Hollowell Parkway
- Pryor Road/Capitol Avenue
- MARTA West Extension to I-285 and MLK Drive
- Moreland Avenue

As you continue your process of updating the Connect Atlanta Plan, we would like to take this opportunity to point out our areas of regional focus that include the following:

- Providing an understanding of transit needs for the region;
- Directing growth to areas where cost effective transportation services can be provided;
- Aligning the funding of transportation to include significant transit infrastructure as well as ongoing transit maintenance and operations.

Kind Regards,
TRANSIT PLANNING BOARD

Eldrin Bell, Chairman

cc: Atlanta City Council
Transit Planning Board Members